

Copenhagen Climate Change Conference – BK Report ,
Thursday December 10th, 2009

Meetings with UN Secretariat.

Sister Jayanti and Renaud left early for the Bella Center for a pre-arranged meeting with **Preety Bhandari, Financial and Technical Support, Climate Change Secretariat**. The negotiations are basically divided up into five themes and finance is one of them which Preety Bhandari heads up. This was a very pleasant meeting; she was very open and listened with attention to our spiritual perspective

On the way to the meeting, which was in high security private offices of the secretariat, they met by chance **Mr. Yvo de Boer, Executive s Secretary of the UNFCCC**. It was a brief but pleasant meeting; Sister Jayanti gave him our BK Statement and a diary.

A young man, **Vipul Bhatti, Editor, of Corporate Social Responsibility at the, “The Optimist”** (www.optimistsworld.com) interviewed Sister Jayant. He was very enthusiastic about his own experience at COP15in Copenhagen and was interested in the BK position on climate change The article will probably appear sometime next week.

CPO15 and the NGO Forum. (Klimaforum09)

The negotiating parties have been working with their own documents and the NGOs have been preparing their own declaration – called the Klimaforum09 Declaration. The full title is: **System Change – not Climate Change. The People’s Declaration from Klimaforum09**. There have been a few drafts, and many NGOs have been participating in the writing of it by having the text up on a large screen, and going through the paragraphs one by one and people editing text directly from the computer. At the moment we are on draft 3, the aim is to have a declaration by consensus to submit to COP15. Interestingly there is a subtitle in the declaration called “”Prevailing patterns of thought.”

COP15 has its own daily newspaper called “**the COP15 post**” and the NGO Forum has it’s own newspaper called “**Climate Chronicle: -- Critical News and Climate Justice Perspective**”

Global Peace Initiative of Women organizing the Religious Leaders Meetings sponsored a Special Evening Program for invited guests at **National Museet – the National Museum of Denmark**. The theme was “**Voices of Hope**” **Responding to the Call of the Earth**.

Dena Merriam, Founder an Convener, The Global Peace Initiative of Women, opened the proceedings, welcomed everyone and then handed the evening over to **Sister Jayanti** who moderated the program and did a meditation commentary to complete the evening.

Hon. Maurice Strong Leading Environmentalist, Secretary-General, 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Environment, first Executive Director of UNEP and Secretary-General, 1992 Rio Earth Summit:

Climate change is a survival agenda. The main enemy of capitalism is not communism or socialism but greedy capitalists. Climate change will create conflicts so peace organizations should try to avoid the worst effects of it. Copenhagen will be a commitment to have a legally binding commitment in as little time as possible.

Prof. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Laureate, Founder Greenbelt Movement

The Bible is more related to dominium of nature/environment but Genesis actually encourages us to be custodians of nature and not exploiters. If other species disappear so will the human species. We need to remember that there are priceless things to protect. Accountability, transparency, equity, and responsibility are key for the agreement at Copenhagen. We have to have empathy and compassion for the world, especially African countries. Using the voice from the source we spiritual leaders must influence the negotiators.

Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector, University, Thailand

A shared vision is related to collective action. Awareness is not enough for a solution there are 3 approaches: to just live with despair is pessimistic, just hope without awareness is optimistic, but we need to be aware of problems and look for solutions that are realistic. Darwin said that survival is for the species that adapt to change. It is our thoughts of greed rooted in our minds that is the problem. Peace is a prerequisite to a solution. Peace in mind, peace with other human beings, and peace of nations.

Swami Veda Bharati, Spiritual Director, The Sadhana Mandir Ashram, India

The voice of spirit is clear; if debates are preceded with silence everything would be different. Everywhere the tradition is to consult philosophers, now seem to have forgotten this. What changes do we need in our life? If, one person is influenced in one thousand and then that one influences one person in one thousand we can impact the world.